

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

Bundy 32
Berlin

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55-51

Action

Control: 14235
Rec'd: OCTOBER 23, 1961
5:45 p.m.

EUR

Info

FROM: BERLIN

SS

TO: Secretary of State

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SP

NO: 805, OCTOBER 23, 6 PM

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PRIORITY

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USIA

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ARMY

NAVY

AIR

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, STOESSEL AND MCGUIRE.

REFERENCE: BERLIN'S 801 DEPT, 709 BONN.

PROTEST LETTER RE INCIDENTS REPORTED REFTTEL FROM US COMMANDANT GENERAL WATSON TO SOV COMMANDANT COLONEL SOLOVYEV DATED TODAY DELIVERED KARLSHORSL 3 PM TODAY. TEXT FOLLOWS.

RMR

BEGIN TEXT

IN EVENING OF OCTOBER 22 SOVIET SECTOR GERMAN POLICE PREVENTED DEPUTY US COMMANDANT OF BERLIN, MINISTER E. ALLAN LIGHTNER, JR., FROM EXERCISING HIS RIGHT TO UNIMPEDED PASSAGE INTO SOV SECTOR, ALTHOUGH HE WAS DRIVING A VEHICLE BEARING U.S. FORCES LICENSE PLATES. POLICE AT FRIEDRICHSTRASSE CROSSING POINT IMPROPERLY DEMANDED TO SEE MR. LIGHTNER'S IDENTIFICATION PAPERS. UNDER OUR ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES MR. LIGHTNER REFUSED TO EXHIBIT IDENTIFICATION PAPERS AND ULTIMATELY REQUESTED TO SEE SOV OFFICER. MR. LIGHTNER WAITED MORE THAN AN HOUR FOR SOV OFFICER TO APPEAR. FINALLY AFTER HE WAS TOLD THAT NONE WOULD BE SUMMONED UNTIL MORNING, IT BECAME NECESSARY TO FURNISH A US MILITARY ESCORT IN ORDER ENABLE MR. LIGHTNER PROCEED INTO YOUR SECTOR AND RETURN TO US SECTOR.

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State 6/20/75 NLK-75-141
MFD 9/11/75

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-2- 805, OCTOBER 23, 6 PM, FROM BERLIN

THIS IS GRAVEST IN SERIES OF SUCH INCIDENTS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED SINCE I VISITED YOU ON AUGUST 26 TO DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION TO DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY US PERSONNEL UNDER MY COMMAND IN EXERCISE OF THEIR RIGHT TO FREE, UNRESTRICTED MOVEMENT THOUGHOUT BERLIN. AT THAT TIME I TOLD YOU THAT I CANNOT ACCEPT ANY IMPEDIMENT, SUCH AS DEMAND FOR IDENTIFICATION, ON RIGHT OF US PERSONNEL IN PROPERLY MARKED VEHICLES TO CROSS INTO AND OUT OF SOV SECTOR FREELY. IN THIS CONNECTION I MADE REFERENCE TO EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN YOUR HEADQUARTERS AND MINE TO ENSURE FREE MOVEMENT OF US PERSONNEL WITHIN BERLIN. IN REPLY YOU ASSURED ME OF YOUR PERSONAL INTEREST IN MATTER OF FREE PASSAGE OF US PERSONNEL.

DESPITE MY REPEATED INSISTENCE THAT YOU ELIMINATE DIFFICULTIES TO WHICH AMERICAN PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED, MEMBERS OF MY COMMAND HAVE CONTINUED TO SUFFER INTERMITTENT HARASSMENT BY SOV SECTOR GERMAN POLICE DEMANDING TO SEE IDENTIFICATION. SEVERAL SUCH INCIDENTS OCCURRED ON OCTOBER 15 INVOLVING US PERSONNEL IN PRIVATELY-OWNED VEHICLES, PROPERLY MARKED AS BELONGING TO MEMBERS OF US FORCES. AS RESULT OF THESE INCIDENTS, MY POLITICAL ADVISER, MR. HOWARD TRIVERS, PAID CALL ON COLONEL LAZAREV.

AT THEIR MEETING ON OCTOBER 17, MR. TRIVERS REMINDED YOUR POLITICAL ADVISER OF ARRANGEMENTS MADE BETWEEN OUR HEADQUARTERS, UNDER WHICH SOV AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS AND DRAWINGS OF VARIOUS TYPES OF VEHICULAR REGISTRATION PLATES USED BY VEHICLES OF US IN BERLIN. THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN A REGULAR BASIS EVER SINCE APRIL 1958 WHEN IT WAS FIRST REQUESTED BY SOV AUTHORITIES TO ENABLE THEM ENSURE UNIMPEDED CIRCULATION TO WHICH US VEHICLES AND OCCUPANTS ARE ENTITLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH VALID INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT. COL. LAZAREV ASKED MR. TRIVERS TO FURNISH YOUR HEADQUARTERS WITH COMPLETE NEW SETS OF DESCRIPTION AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF LICENSE PLATES CURRENTLY IN USE BY US PERSONNEL, AND STATED THAT ON RECEIPT OF THESE FACSIMILES HE WOULD SEE TO IT THAT THEY WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO FRIEDRICH-STRASSE CROSSING POINT, WHEREUPON DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY U.S. PERSONNEL WOULD BE ELIMINATED. MR. TRIVERS ACCORDINGLY

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-3- 805, OCTOBER 23, 6 PM, FROM BERLIN

PROVIDED YOUR HEADQUARTERS WITH REQUESTED SAMPLES ON OCTOBER 19.

I PROTEST IN STRONGEST TERMS YOUR CONTINUED FAILURE TO TAKE MEASURES TO ASSURE FREE AND UNIMPEDED MOVEMENTS OF US PERSONNEL WITHIN ALL FOUR SECTORS OF THIS CITY.

I MUST WARN YOU THAT UNLESS MY DEMAND FOR RECTIFICATION OF PRESENT INTOLERABLE SITUATION IS MET IMMEDIATELY, MOST SERIOUS AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES, FOR WHICH SOV AUTHORITIES WILL BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY, WILL RESULT FROM ANY FURTHER ATTEMPTS ON PART OF SOV SECTOR GERMAN POLICE TO HARASS, MOLEST, OR INTERFERE WITH US PERSONNEL.

END TEXT.

LIGHTNER

ELP/21

Note: Advance copy to SO and SS, 10/23/61, EH.

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